

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S 2005 REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I present to the residents of Holderness my first report as your Town Administrator.

For those of you who don't know me, I come to Holderness after serving the Town of Lisbon as Administrator from 1998 to 2005 and as a Selectman in Lisbon from 1986 to 1998. My professional career also includes 16 years in real estate sales, management and development, and four years in municipal and construction engineering. I believe my experience as a municipal manager, an elected official and in the private sector has prepared me well for serving the citizens of Holderness as your Town Administrator.

After just six months on board as your Administrator I realize the Town's administration department has been well cared for under the direction of former Administrator Paul Weston and I thank him for that. I also want to thank the wonderful Town office staff, department heads, employees, members of the Board of Selectmen and the numerous Holderness citizens I have met for the warm welcome I have received.

Ahead in 2006 I am looking forward to meeting more of you and working closely with the members of the Board of Selectmen and the other municipal boards and committees to continue to improve our level of service to the citizens of Holderness while preserving the unique quality of life and rich natural resources this region has to offer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walter Johnson  
Town Administrator



*Holderness Employee's and Town Officials gather  
to share a meal and a Yankee Swap at the annual Christmas party.*

## **HOLDERNESS TOWN BEACH 2005 REPORT**

The beach was open from June 19 through Labor Day, and supervised by a Beach Attendant from 10AM to 5PM (weather permitting). The duties of the Beach Attendant include monitoring the use of the beach by Holderness residents/taxpayers and their guests, and enforcing the rules of the beach as stated in the Rules and Regulations. They are also on site to take care of the beach including mowing the lawn, raking the beach, and other maintenance necessary to keep the beach clean, attractive, and safe. Remember, the Beach Attendants are not lifeguards.

In 2005, 247 beach passes were purchased, up from 217 the year before. The beach passes for 2006 are available and can be purchased at Town Hall. Be sure to pick up your copy of the Town Beach Rules and Regulations and please review it with everyone in your family. This facility is one of the most cherished assets in town and we appreciate all of you who abide by the rules.

In addition to a fine, sandy beach, the Town Beach provides swing sets, picnic tables, a raft, porta-potties, and a changing room. A public phone is provided for limited local calls and emergency use. Trash receptacles are provided for your convenience at the beach, but we are very appreciative of those who adhere to the "carry in - carry out" policy.

At some point during the summer of 2005 two treads of the raft ladder were broken off. Before we had a chance to remove it for repair, the rest of the ladder was completely ripped off. Repairs will be made in early spring and the raft should be as good as new for the 2006 summer. Please notify a Beach Attendant, the Recreation Director, or a Recreation Board member if you see any unsafe conditions at the beach or if you see anyone doing damage to the equipment.

We would like to say a big "thank you" to Peter Furmanick and the crew from the Public Works Department for helping us with some major projects this spring. Some of the tasks for which we required help were the replacement of styrofoam in the raft, grading and graveling the road, and removing dead trees. As in years past, the beach was set up and closed down primarily by volunteers from the Recreation Board and by students from the Holderness School. In the spring this involved setting out the raft and swim lines, putting up the swings, and raking the beach. Then in the fall the beach was raked again and everything was put away for the winter.

We also thank all of the residents and taxpayers for caring for the Town Beach, a treasure in our community. It is there for all to enjoy and we strive to make it a comfortable, safe and fun atmosphere.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Werner, Recreation Director  
Tom Stepp, Chairman  
George (Biff) Sutcliffe, Secretary  
Sam Laverack, Selectman Liaison  
Jay Fogarty  
Wendy Mersch  
Janis Messier

## **HOLDERNESS COMPLIANCE OFFICER 2005 REPORT**

Wells .....	4
Cottages .....	10
Houses.....	14
Additions.....	8
Alterations.....	7
Mobil Homes .....	3
Renovations .....	1
Sheds.....	11
Signs.....	1
Garages .....	8
Swim Pools .....	1
Septic Systems .....	26
Septic Repairs .....	8
Parking Lot .....	1
Barn.....	3
Hot Tubs.....	2
Demolition .....	14
Commercial Buildings .....	3
Decks .....	7

Applications Recd .....	132
Permits Issued.....	131
Variances Recd.....	2
Permits Denied.....	3

Respectfully Submitted  
Richard Mardin  
Fire Chief/Compliance Officer

## **HOLDERNESS CONSERVATION COMMISSION— 2005 REPORT**

Members of the commission monitor all town properties and easements on a regular basis, particularly those properties and easements related to for Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP). Those duties involve monitoring one easement, the Crawford easement, and two properties, the Pilote Forest and the Pemi Riverside Park. The latter two properties were purchased with LCIP funds. LCIP has now been transformed into the Land Conservation and Heritage Investment Program. We are investigating getting funds from the latter program. We also monitor the Town Forest, the Chabot Easement and the Swainey Brook Easement. It is important that the Town continue to support our efforts by contributing annually to the Town's Conservation Fund.

The Commission continues to be strongly interested in the protection of the local environment, particularly with respect to water (streams, lakes and wetlands). It is important to protect the local watersheds and the streams that flow out of those watersheds into Squam Lake and the Pemigewasset River. The Commission has worked closely with Squam Lakes Association and the Squam Lakes Conservation Society on those matters. It is also very important for the Town of Holderness to protect the gravel-pack aquifers associated with the intervale area and the Town should strongly adhere to existing planning and zoning regulations with respect to actions in that area. In the University's new master plan, the University hopes to purchase properties on North and South River Streets. The town should work closely with the University to expand our existing park on South River Street and to work with the University in returning the bank-side areas to a natural riparian habitat.

We are still hoping in the spring of 2006 to have students from the Holderness School do a trail project on the Pilote Forest. This project is being guided by Commissioner Pettitt. The Commission continues to work on developing a trail system that would include access to the Pilote Forest from the Central School via the Town Forest. Such a trail would allow Central School students to do natural history studies and also community service work. We continue to meet with both school officials and local residents about the project. We are also continuing work on the development of a formal town-wide system of trails that would allow users to hike from the town center to Plymouth. We are actively seeking out local residents to work with us on this project.

The Commission continues to deal on a regular basis with items related to docks, wetlands permits, etc. We work closely with the Town Compliance Officer, Richard Mardin, on those matters. We've continued with our plan of visiting all the prime wetlands in the Town of Holderness. We continue to spend a large amount of time dealing with issues associated with the gravel pits and prime wetland at the Pemi Fish and Game Club. We are planning a joint meeting of the Commission with the Pemi Fish and Game Board in the spring. Because we are dealing with increasingly complex issues with respect to wetlands and encroachment on wetlands, we propose to have a joint meeting in the spring of 2006 with the Conservation Commission, the Selectboard, the Planning Board, the ZBA, and the Compliance Officer to examine present processes and procedures and to determine whether changes are needed to those.

The Commission sponsored/cosponsored two regional meetings this past year. The first was with the commissions of the Squam Lakes Watershed. There the main topic was how the Commission can use the Squam Lake Watershed maps. The second meeting was cosponsored by the Center for the Environment at PSU and was aimed at the Pemi-Baker Watershed Commissions.

Commissioners continue to work on their own understanding of environmental matters through attendance at workshops and meetings. The Chair attended the Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. Jacquie Jewell and the Chair attended a special meeting sponsored by the NH Extension Service in Woodsville on "What are the duties of a Conservation Commission?" and an introduction to Grafton County soils. Anne Packard attended a scientific meeting on lake biology in Scotland. Reggie Pettitt has his students at Holderness School working on projects involving local ecosystems.

Commissioner Mike Barney resigned. The Commission thanks Mike for his work as a member of the Commission. Barbara Currier continues to be a faithful attendee to our meetings as the representative from the Selectboard

The Commission meets the third Wednesday at 7:00 PM at the town hall every month except for the summer months. Special meetings and field inspections are sometimes held in between regular meetings. If you have an interest in the work of the Commission or would like to become a member of the Commission, please contact the Town Administrator at the Town Office. All proceedings of the Commission are open to the public and we welcome all comments and any offers of assistance. The Commission maintains a website at: <http://www.holdernessconservationcommission.org>

Submitted by:  
Mike Barney  
Jacque Jewell  
Anne Packard  
Reggie Pettitt  
Larry Spencer, Chairman  
Barbara Currier, Selectman Liaison

## **CURRENT USE REPORT – 2005**

Total Acres Enrolled In Current Use -2005 .....	71.5
Total Acres Removed from Current Use – 2005 .....	7.91
Total Land Use Change Penalty – 2005 .....	\$ 4,300.

TOTAL PARCELS .....	225
TOTAL ACRES .....	11,216.61
TOTAL VALUE .....	\$1,160,816

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT SEVENTY THIRD ANNUAL REPORT 2005**

We started out the year with a large number of calls then slowed down. As we neared the end of the year we were wondering if we were in some kind of a rut. In both 2003 and 2004 we had 277 calls and it looked like we might have the same number again. But unfortunately things picked up and we ended with 281 - the last call being a house fire on New Years Eve. We were able to extinguish the fire without a lot of damage to the house and get home just in time to watch the ball drop.

The 911 numbering system is working well. Some of the "older" members of the department fondly remember when they knew all the locations by the owner's name. But, with the growth in town, and the number of property changes, the numbers are much more efficient and defining. Please make sure that your house numbers are posted prominently and kept clear so we can easily find them on a dark night should we ever need to respond to your call.

Operation Santa provided an exciting Christmas to 28 children this year. Thanks to the many business and individual donations that make this effort possible. If you have any child in mind that might need this service, please let either the Fire Chief or Town Welfare Officer know.

After the 2004 Town meeting a replacement tanker fire truck was ordered. We are looking forward to its arrival in January. This will replace our aging 12 Engine 5, a 2500 gallon truck that has served us very well.

We hope that you will support the warrant article requesting monies for a new fire/rescue boat. The old one, which we had purchased from the Town of Meredith for \$1, died at the end of this summer. The proposed new boat would be located at the dock behind the library and ready to go for any island or lakeside fire or medical emergency.

Recently we have been very fortunate to have a number of new members join the Department. Their youth and enthusiasm have invigorated us all. They are all involved in training, some having completed many of the firefighter certification courses already. Some have headed for training in the medical field which we have sorely needed.

Thank you all for your continued support. Please feel free to stop in and visit your Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted  
Richard E. Mardin, Chief  
Holderness Fire Department

## **HOLDERNESS FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT CALLS 2005**

Medical Aid.....	116
Rescue.....	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	41
Vehicle Fires .....	4
Mutual Aid .....	38
Structure Fires.....	4
Chimney Fires.....	3
Furnace.....	2
Electrical .....	3
Forest Fires .....	5
Alarm Activations .....	19
Smoke Investigations .....	6
Arcing Wires .....	11
Fuel Spills .....	8
Hazmat.....	1
Flood .....	1
Service Call.....	4
Other .....	8
Total .....	281

## **FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT 2005**

The 2005 Fire Season started off on April 14th with a Brush Fire on Route 113, at that time we were at a Class 5 Fire Day, which means the Fire Danger is EXTREME.

On April 16th we were summoned to Ellsworth for a Mutual Aid Forest Fire, and on April 20th we were summoned to Thornton for a Mutual Aid Forest Fire, both of these fires were non-permitted.

On the 18th of April the State of New Hampshire issued a Class 5 day with a Red Flag Warning. No permits to be issued. The conditions for Class 5 with Red Flag Warning are; wind sustained or frequent gusts above 25 mph, relative humidity less than 30% and no rainfall in over 5 days, and a Fuels Drought Index above 300.

Starting in 2006 the fire permits will be divided into categories:

- Category 1 Fire - A small controlled fire no greater than 2 ft in diameter.
- Category 2 Fire - A controlled fire no greater than 4 ft in diameter, contained in a fire resistant ring.
- Category 3 Fire - A fire greater than 4 ft in diameter and not contained in a ring
- Category 4 Fire - Other than a Category 1 Fire, that can be kindled between the hours of 5pm and 9am, this is a Commercial Permit.

The new laws for the permit process will be posted at the Fire Station and at the Town Clerks Office. Please check with the Fire Warden about the new rules when you apply for the permit.

This year we had 2 forest fire calls in town and 2 out of town. There were 387 fire permits issued in 2005.

Fire permits are issued at the Fire Station and the Town Clerks Office, between the hours of 8am and 4pm, Monday – Friday.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard Mardin, Holderness Forest Fire Warden



## **HONOR ROLL COMMITTEE**

In 2005 the Selectboard formed a committee to begin the process necessary to create and locate a new Veterans' memorial to replace the present honor roll on the library lawn. The committee was directed to return a recommendation to the Selectmen regarding design of the monument and location.

The members of the committee are Pat Ford and Ed Ford as representatives of the Mt. Livermore Grange #288, Barbara Currier as representative of the Selectboard, Sandy Ray as representative of the Library Board of Trustees, Harry Decker, Tom Thompson, and Russell Moren, all veterans. Harry Decker agreed to serve as chair and Sandy Ray as secretary for the committee. The initial meeting was held on May 5th, 2005 with 6 more meetings being held during 2005.

The Grange has been involved for some time in a project to collect the names of all Holderness residents who have served in the armed forces during recognized conflicts since the Revolutionary War. This is a laborious, time consuming task that is key to the final design. At this time the search is nearing completion.

Several locations were considered as possible sites for the new memorial. The committee has narrowed the site selection down to the town library property or the town hall property.

Committee members have visited several other memorials around the state. Photos of those sites have been helpful in narrowing down design ideas for consideration. Again, this is an ongoing part of the project.

The next phase of the work, to be conducted during 2006, is to finish the name search and draw up a plan based on the committee's findings to present to the Selectboard. That proposed plan would include a location, design, and cost estimate. If the Selectboard approves the plan it will be presented to the residents early in 2007 for consideration at the town meeting. A fundraising campaign will also be initiated during 2006. The proposed time line would see the new memorial installed during 2007.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Ford  
Ed Ford  
Tom Thompson  
Russell Moren  
Harry Decker, Chairman  
Sandy Ray, Secretary  
Barbara Currier, Selectmen's' Liaison

## **HOLDERNESS LIBRARY TRUSTEES' REPORT 2005**

The Holderness Library has had another successful year under the directorship of Suzanne Peoples. Her many varied offerings have included: Knitting Nights, Children's Story Hour, guest story tellers, guest authors, and art displays.

Now that the water drainage problem and the finishing touches on the basement renovation are completed, there are two usable rooms in the Library basement. One is a "new" meeting room that has windows that look out onto the Squam channel. This room is available for community use. The other room is being used to store the library's expanding audio-visual collection.

New shades for the upstairs windows have recently been installed. The new shades replace the window quilts that had deteriorated and needed to be replaced. A new sign for the front of the building has recently been installed.

The Holderness Library is now a wireless zone. Patrons can access the Internet on their lap top PC's while at the library. There is also a new computer that gives patrons direct access to our card catalogue listings.

The library assistant director will be on duty full time during the summer months and two days a week during the remainder of the year. This will allow the library director more time to perform the many duties that come with enhancing our library collection and planning community programs.

The library is looking to expand its physical facility in the near future. The library director needs more office and storage space. The building is not accessible to patrons who are physically handicapped, and our bathroom facilities are inadequate. A capital fund will be launched when we have more definite drawings and have a scale model of the project.

The library continues to be a dynamic and exciting resource for our community. We wish to thank our patrons and volunteers for their continued support. A special thank you is extended to Sandy Ray for organizing the popular 50 Cent Santa Sale.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Hanson on behalf of the Library Trustees  
Amanda Loud  
Larry Webster  
Sandy Ray  
Susan Beeson  
Kay Hanson

# **HOLDERNESS LIBRARY DIRECTORS REPORT 2005**

## **LIBRARY HOURS**

Monday and Wednesday 10am-6pm. Friday 10am-5pm. Saturday 10am-1pm.  
E-Mail: [holdernesslibrary.adelphia.net](mailto:holdernesslibrary.adelphia.net)  
Web Page: [holdernessfreelibrary.org](http://holdernessfreelibrary.org)  
Telephone: (603) 968-7066

## **STATISTICS**

2005

### **Circulation**

Adult Items .....	4,666
Child Items .....	1,551
Total Items .....	6,217

### **Patrons**

Number of families registered ..... 1,560

## **HOLDINGS**

16,848

We are enjoying our remodeled rooms on the lower floor of the library. One room is dedicated to our audio –visual collection and the children’s “train table”.

The second room is being used for the “Friend’s” ongoing book sale and meetings, including Knit & Stitch night, and book groups. This room can be made available to other non-profit groups needing a place to meet. For information about reserving the meeting room, please call the library or contact the Library Trustees.

I wish to take this time to publicly thank the Library Trustees for all of the time they dedicate to the library, for their encouragement and support of the library and of me. Our library is moving in an exciting direction becoming a vibrant part of our Holderness community. I also wish to thank our volunteers Myrtle Holland and Patricia L’Abbe who are so helpful in behind the scenes work and our patrons who make all efforts worth while.

Respectfully submitted  
Suzanne B. Peoples  
Library Director